

Thurrock's Pledge



To Children and
Young People
in Care

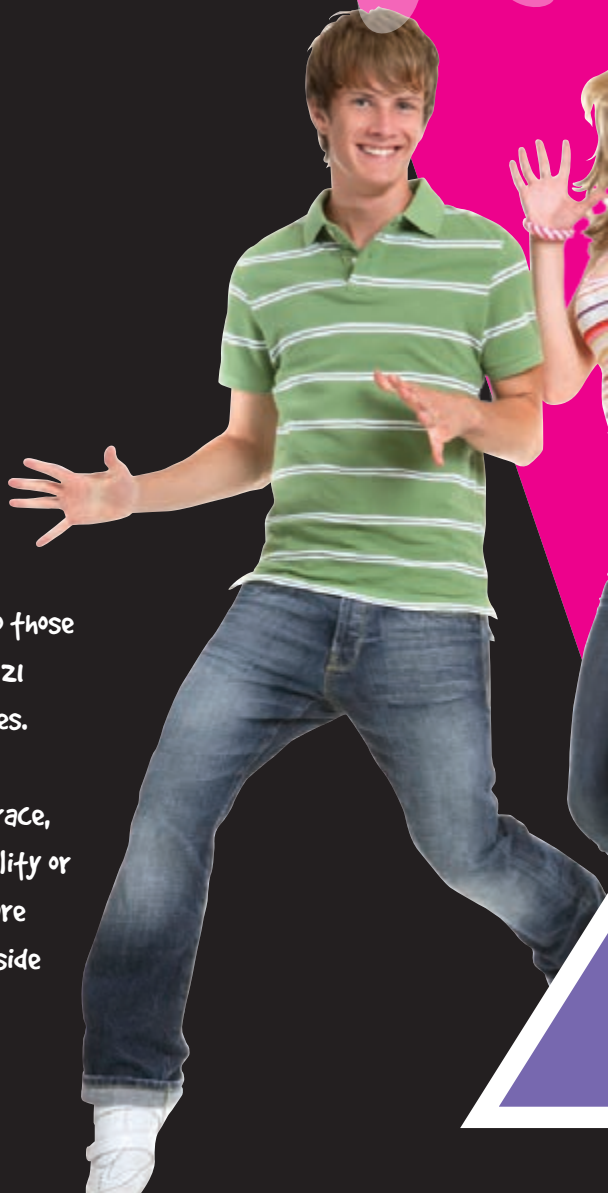
our pledge was written by young people and has been adopted throughout the council for children and young people in the care of Thurrock Council.

our pledge makes five promises,
These cover:

- * Health
- * Education
- * Reaching your potential
- * Positive relationships
- * Leaving care.

It applies to all children and young people, from birth to 18 years of age who are in our care. Some apply to those leaving care, from the age of 18 up to 21 years and even 25 years in a few cases.

The pledge applies regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, age, ability or background. It applies wherever you are placed, whether you live inside or outside Thurrock.



Thurrock's

Pledge

We promise to work to
help you to develop
healthily



We will help you keep fit and healthy. We will give you the resources and information to continue a healthy journey. We will support you to have regular health and dental checks



We will support you in all aspects of your development and give you every opportunity to flourish

Thurrock's Pledge

We promise to do everything we can to keep you safe and feel important to us while in care:

We will be available to speak to you when you need to. We can discuss problems, anxieties and achievements.

We will visit you at least 12 times a year and give you the opportunity to meet with social workers independently during visits.

We will involve you in decisions and plans that will affect your current and future life.

We will ensure you access life story work in conjunction with Thurrock's life story policy including a book or memory box containing important information about your childhood. This information will include: where you were born, the area you grew up in, schools you attended, photos, family tree, calendar of events and other memories you may wish to add.

We will not change your social worker unless absolutely necessary.

We will give you advice and support to stay safe, both within your home and in your community.

We will give you a way to contact your social workers directly, such as email, mobile number and/or office number.

We will always try to call you back within 24 hours.





Thurrock's

Pledge



We promise to help you reach your dreams while in care:




We will celebrate your achievements and recognise your goals and help to push you further while in care.



We will support you to attend and achieve throughout your education.



We will provide you with good educational opportunities that best meet your abilities.



We will provide you with a translating dictionary in your language when you first come into care if your first language is not English.



We will give you the same opportunities available to young people who are not looked after.



We will respect your privacy when possible.

Thurrock's Pledge

We promise to support your positive relationships and social activities:



We will give priority when you ask to stay with friends and relatives away from your normal placement.



We will seek your views about contact arrangements and support you in attending family contacts.



We will aid you in having easy access to libraries, youth clubs and positive activities.



We will give you access to an independent visitor/mentor.




We will support you in being heard throughout the local authority - across all departments.



Thurrock's

Pledge

We promise to help you reach your dreams while in care:

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- * We will support you in opening a bank account / savings account.
 - * We will provide you with identification, such as passport, birth certificate or alternative identification available to you.
 - * We will support you to have access to your files.
 - * We will support you financially up until the time you start work or are entitled to claim benefits.
 - * We will provide you with a grant to help you settle into your own accommodation when you leave care.
 - * We will support you in higher education at university.
 - * We will help you to seek employment and training.
 - * We will help you with transport for attending education and looked after children appointments.
 - * We will support you to apply for all documentation and providing you with necessary information on your rights.

Thurrock's Pledge

From the Director of Children's Services

The PLEDGE is our PROMISE, made by Thurrock Council and its staff. We make promises to you that we intend to deliver.

We have the responsibility to ensure that you are healthy, stay safe, learn, enjoy life and achieve your goals. We will prepare you for your adult life when it is time for you to leave care. We may not always be able or willing to do what you want; but we will always involve you in the important decisions that affect your lives. We will always treat you as an individual and take into account the unique things about you, for example your age and sex, your race, language and religion, your sexual preferences and any disabilities you might have.

Thurrock Council will listen to you and your views within the Children in Care Council. The CiCC is your direct voice to all the Directors, Elected Members and council officers who make the decisions in Thurrock that affect all residents.

We have special responsibilities for you. I want you to know that we are committed to you and to your future.

This pledge shows the commitments that we have made to you, putting you at the heart of everything that we do as a Council.

Thurrock Council wants to make sure we stick to the promises made to you and ensure that we are providing you our best service. Please discuss this pledge and let us know your views about how Thurrock Council is doing on its promises. This can be done through your independent reviewing officer or you can get in contact with the CiCC. Additionally, the CiCC is always looking for new representatives and would welcome your interest if you want to get involved. If you have any comments or questions about anything you see in the pledge, please contact your Social Worker.

email: ciCC@opendoorservices.org
or Call 01375 389879 for further
information